

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

-vs-

ARAKI, Sadao, et al

Sworn Deposition

Deponent: SAWADA, Shigoru

Having first duly sworn an oath as on attached sheet and in accordance with the procedure followed in our country, I hereby depose as follows:

1. I was born at No. 4, Kamobe, Kamoda-Mura, Tosa-Gun, Kochi Prefecture on 29 March 1887 (the 20th year of Meiji). My permanent domicile is No. 47, 5-Chome, Asagaya, Suginami Ward, Tokyo City, where I am still living.

2. The outline of my life history is as follows:

June 1906: Appointed Sub-lieutenant

March 1935: Appointed Major General

March 1938: Appointed Lieutenant General

July, the same year: Appointed Commander of the 4th Division

October 1939: Appointed Vice Chief of the Army General Staff

December 1940: Appointed Commander of the 13th Army (stationed at Shanghai)

October 1942: Relieved of duties as the Commander of the 13th Army

15 November 1942: Placed on the reserve list.

In the period of my active service, I served mainly in the Army General Staff, the War College, and as an officer attached to the Japanese Embassies abroad.

3. From December 1940 till October 1942, I was at Shanghai as Commander of the 13th Army. The military occupation by the Japanese troops of the International Settlement at Shanghai, following the outbreak of the Pacific War on 8 December 1941, was effected in an orderly manner and under perfect discipline, amidst the admiration and praise of the whole citizens. There were no unfortunate happenings; nor was there a single shot fired.

Every precaution was taken to prevent any unfortunate happenings that often accompany the military occupation of a city. The following are the major steps taken:

a. The strength of the occupation force was reduced to a minimum, and it is my recollection that the number of soldiers did not exceed 500 at the most.

b. The occupation took place in the daytime. In other words, since we thought that the general office hour of workers following various professions and belonging to various elements within the International Settlement began at about 9 a.m., we commenced the occupation hour later, that is, at 10 a.m.

c. Prior to the advance of troops, our mixed military envoy composed of army, navy and foreign office personnel, visited the Shanghai Municipal Office and notified in advance of our military occupation in order that the authorities of the settlement might take all possible measures to prevent disturbances and unrest among the citizens.

d. The police units of the settlement were promptly stationed at various security positions, and in their presence the advance of the Japanese troops was started.

e. The troops, marching in orderly formation without being subdivided, reached the turf and the barracks formerly used by the U. S. Marine Corps, and there quickly closed up. Soldiers were strictly prohibited from dispersing.

f. Whenever there was any special duty to be performed, either a corps commanded by an officer or a group of specially chosen non-commissioned officers were appointed for the task.

g. Patrol parties were very frequently despatched to make a round of inspection with a view to preventing wrongs and misdeeds being committed.

h. Everywhere in the city notices were posted telling the citizens to set their minds at rest.

i. I summoned up all the commanders and gave them instructions that every possible precaution be taken against wrongs and misdeeds, and that military discipline be enforced with great strictness and severity. I also instructed them to discharge their duty without resort to arms.

j. Banks were not closed and were under special orders to carry on their business as usual.

k. Japanese nationals were prohibited from entering the city, except those with certificates issued by the Japanese Consul.

Because of such precautionary measures, not a single incident occurred. I started for a round of inspection through the city at about 3 p.m. and found nothing unusual. There was much traffic. Shops were carrying on their business as usual, not a single shop being closed.

The newspapers in Shanghai unanimously extolled the behaviours of the Japanese troops and went so far as to call them exemplary behaviours.

4. In Shanghai there were some 1,500 or 1,600 American and British prisoners of war who were in charge of the 13th Army under my command. I used to instruct the Chief of the POW Camp to be above all, compassionate, fair and just in his treatment of prisoners of war. Major General YUSE, Camp Commandant, meticulously abode by my instructions. When prisoners were assigned to some labour inside the camp, he used to share the work with them, whereby setting an example.

Major General YUSE, on his own initiative, used to come to my quarters once a week to report on the conditions in the camp. He was so devoted to his work that he at length succumbed to a disease and died while he was still in the same position.

The POW Camp was properly equipped and properly managed. Mr. Egley (TN: ?), a Swiss, delegated by the International Red Cross to inspect the camp, was highly delighted after he had inspected the camp, and immediately after his visit to the camp, took the trouble of writing me a letter of thanks.

Although it is regrettable that one of the interpreters at the camp has been indicted as a war criminal on the charge of some illegal act, yet the general conditions in the camp may be gathered from the fact that with the exception of this interpreter, neither the Camp Commandant nor any one of his subordinates has been put to trial.

We tried to be fair and just also in our treatment of hostile nationals. It was my intention to place no restraint upon peaceful citizens, who offered us no resistance, and to let them lead a normal life. Upon this line, we decided on the methods of treating these citizens. Consequently, during my tenure of office hostile nationals such as Americans, Britishers and so on were under no restraint whatsoever and were at liberty to reside and make a living in the city. They were allowed to follow their respective occupations. Even in the case of the officials in the Shanghai Municipal Office, those occupying leading positions were not removed but were allowed, in the interests of the settlement, to carry on their work until they themselves tendered their resignations on their own initiative (as I remember, towards March 1942).

Furthermore, bank deposits were not frozen, and for each individual person's living expenses a certain amount per month could be drawn from the bank. With regard to the treatment of hostile nationals and their properties, there was a committee consisting of delegates from the War Ministry, the Navy Ministry, the Foreign Office and the Asiatic Development Bureau, which after deliberation decided on various measures so that no one could take arbitrary and high-handed steps.

The authorities of the Foreign Office, I believe, know better than anyone else that in the Shanghai district a fair and just treatment was accorded to hostile nationals.

On this 16th day of January 1947

At the Sugamo Prison

Deponent: /s/ SAWADA, Shigeru (seal)

I hereby certify that the above statement was sworn by the deponent who affixed his signature and seal thereto in the presence of this witness.

On the same date

At the same place

Witness: KOKUBU, Tomoharu (seal)

OATH

In accordance with my conscience I swear to tell the whole truth withholding nothing and adding nothing.

/s/ SAWADA, Shigeru (seal)